

MAR 01 2019

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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DESIGNATING THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL BUILDING AND ITS GROUNDS AS  
A SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE ZONE.

1 WHEREAS, over the past few decades, both locally and  
2 globally, there has been an exponential rise in the consumption  
3 of plastic items, including a six hundred ten percent increase  
4 in raw plastic production since 1975; and  
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6 WHEREAS, plastic packaging accounts for more than half of  
7 the plastic waste in the world and Americans are among the  
8 highest per capita users of plastic packaging; and  
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10 WHEREAS, only nine percent of plastic produced is recycled  
11 and twelve percent is incinerated, with the rest ending up in  
12 landfills or in the environment, with much of the improperly  
13 disposed plastic eventually ending up in the ocean; and  
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15 WHEREAS, an additional eight million metric tons of plastic  
16 end up in the ocean each year, contributing to plastic islands  
17 like the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, the largest accumulation  
18 of ocean plastic in the world, which lies between Hawaii and  
19 California; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the production of plastic products contributes to  
22 climate change, and by 2050, is projected to account for twenty  
23 percent of global fossil fuel use; and  
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25 WHEREAS, single-use plastic products are especially  
26 detrimental for Hawaii's environment, flora, and fauna, as  
27 ninety-five percent of plastic packaging is discarded after its  
28 first single-use, eighty percent of ocean plastic pollution  
29 enters the ocean from land, and countless marine animals, birds,  
30 and corals are harmed from the ingestion of and the suffocation  
31 from plastic pollution; and  
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33 WHEREAS, single-use plastic products also present an  
34 exacerbating threat to the economy, with single-use plastics



1 being major contributors to street and beach litter, causing  
2 intangible damage to the State's tourist reputation, as well as  
3 millions of dollars in stormwater management and cleanup  
4 efforts; and  
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6 WHEREAS, the cost of plastic pollution on marine litter  
7 alone is estimated at \$13,000,000,000 per year, which includes  
8 the impact on fisheries, tourisms, and biodiversity; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the total social and environmental costs is pegged  
11 at a staggering \$139,000,000,000, which includes costs from the  
12 impact on climate change, health, crops, the environment, and  
13 the cost of waste disposal; and  
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15 WHEREAS, a growing body of scientific literature has  
16 identified potential human health hazards from plastics,  
17 including that the incineration of plastic releases harmful  
18 dioxins that may be released into ambient air; single-use  
19 plastics like polystyrene and single-use plastic bottles may  
20 leach endocrine-disrupting and potentially carcinogenic  
21 chemicals with re-use; and microplastics may be ingested by  
22 marine animals and bioaccumulate and biomagnify up the food  
23 chain, bringing toxic chemicals into food sources; and  
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25 WHEREAS, feasible alternatives to plastics exist at cost-  
26 competitive levels; Hawaii has pledged its support for the  
27 Aloha+ Challenge, one of the pillars of which is solid waste  
28 reduction; and the Legislature has introduced multiple bills  
29 that aim to curb or eliminate plastic waste; now, therefore,  
30

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
32 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
33 Legislature is urged to designate the Hawaii State Capitol  
34 building and its grounds as a single-use plastic free zone; and  
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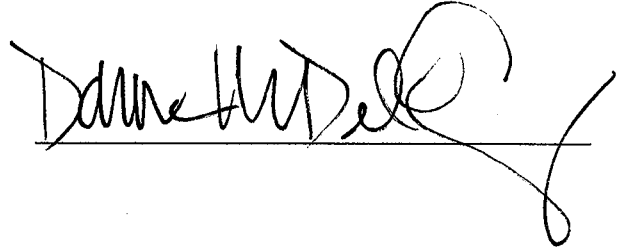
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature is urged to  
37 convene a working group dedicated to finding solutions to reduce  
38 single-use plastics in the Hawaii State Capitol building and its  
39 grounds, as well as how to effectively execute the  
40 implementation of a single-use plastic free zone; and  
41



# S.R. NO. 23

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate,  
3 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and members of the  
4 Hawaii State Legislature.  
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Holt", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.